

DEMOCRATS FIGHT TO END SUBSIDIES FOR BIG OIL AND INSTEAD SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House eliminated wasteful and unnecessary taxpayer subsidies to some of the largest multinational oil companies and instead invested this money in subsidies for regular individuals and businesses who are investing in clean energy. This legislation will not only help ease the pain at the pump for many Americans, but it will also help us get us on the road toward energy independence.

This bill comes shortly after the big five oil companies reported their latest record profits. Earlier this month, for example, ExxonMobil reported earnings of \$40.6 billion in 2007, the largest corporate profit in American history.

Now, why should the big oil companies receive billions of dollars in government welfare? Well, they shouldn't. It's simply a waste of taxpayer dollars at the expense of our very necessary drive towards energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, the House has acted on legislation that will lower energy costs, improve national security by making us more energy independent and ending wasteful taxpayer subsidies for companies that clearly do not need them.

CONGRESS CHOSE POORLY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, if you tax something, you get less of it. If you subsidize it, you get more of it. So in this day of homegrown energy depletion, Congress made the absurd choice of putting more taxes on American oil companies and, instead, chose to subsidize the special interest groups of unproven, undeveloped, and even non-existent sources of energy.

More taxes means the price of crude oil will rise, not diminish; thus, gasoline prices will rise. This tax will be passed on to us, the consumer. Taxes are always passed on to the consumer.

The tax will not encourage, but lessen, domestic oil production. The tax will encourage oil companies to go to some other country to drill for oil and encourage American refineries to move offshore to areas not hostile.

The tax will make us more dependent on Third World countries like Dictator Chavez for oil.

Congress should lower taxes on U.S. oil companies to encourage domestic production.

So Congress had the choice to encourage domestic oil production by opening up places to drill like ANWR and off the coast, or to tax the black gold and lifeblood of our energy—crude oil. Congress chose poorly.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING BRUCE BEYER

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bruce Beyer, a remarkable constituent of mine from Davenport, Iowa, who was recently awarded the Army's Outstanding Individual with Disability Award. I'm proud that Bruce was one of 16 employees honored at the DOD Disability Awards ceremony in December for his contributions to the Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal.

Bruce has been in a wheelchair since a bicycle accident in 1982 left him a quadriplegic without the use of his arms. According to his boss, Bruce Angus, who nominated him, Bruce is an inspiration to everyone around him and exemplifies the tenet that the only true disability in life is a bad attitude.

Bruce is active in raising awareness about people with disabilities by training managers through the arsenal's Windmill Program, by serving as a counselor in the Rock Island-Milan School District, and by conducting seminars in assistive technology and advocacy for disabled individuals.

Bruce is a model of perseverance and a source of pride for the First District of Iowa, and I join his family, friends, colleagues and community in congratulating him on receiving this honor, and I'm thanking and commending him for his incredible contributions to the arsenal and the Quad Cities community.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS ON RECEIVING OFFERS TO U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, this year I had the opportunity to nominate several outstanding high school students in the Eighth District for our Service Academies. Five of these students won nominations.

Ms. Morgan Grohol, Central Cabarrus, varsity athletics, National Honor Society, Beta Club, will attend the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Milton Cantos, Concord High School, U.S. Naval Academy, Academic Honors Club, Key Club, varsity soccer.

Mr. Gabriel Whaley lives in Cabarrus County and attends the North Carolina School of Math and Science, National Honor Society, Academics Honor Club, varsity soccer. He will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Andrew Chinlund graduated from Jack Britt High in Cumberland County. National Honor Society, Junior ROTC. He will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Finally, Mr. Derek Graves is a senior at Hoke High School. Student Council, Academic Honors, cross-country. He will attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

These are five hardworking young people. I'd like to commend them for their extraordinary work and dedication and service to their country, and I wish these five students the best of luck in their future. I thank them for choosing to serve their country.

ON FISA, PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, President Bush is out of new ideas. Instead, all he has left is blatant fear-mongering, a strategy that his administration has elevated to an art form.

This time, it's the expiration of his Protect America Act that has the President warning of dire consequences, even though his own administration admits that our intelligence community continues to have every tool it needs. Fortunately, the American people are not buying into the administration's latest scare tactics.

It's pretty difficult for the President to now decry the act's expiration when he threatened to veto a 21-day extension earlier this month. If the law was so critical to national security, you would think that the President and congressional Republicans would have done everything in their power to ensure that it didn't expire.

If Washington Republicans were seriously concerned about the future of the FISA program, you would think they would want a seat at the table as important negotiations continue. Instead, both the administration and Republican leaders have refused to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, no wonder the scare tactics aren't working.

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SUPPORT PROTECT AMERICA ACT

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when I go home and I talk to my constituents, they understand and appreciate that it is the primary responsibility of Congress to protect our Nation. All Americans believe we should be able to determine what terrorists are saying to terrorists overseas. Playing politics with our Nation's intelligence capabilities only serves to harm our national security. And despite proof of a bipartisan majority of support in the Senate which passed the FISA bill 68-29, House Democrat leadership allowed these protections to expire without a vote. To expire without a vote. Astounding, Mr. Speaker.

We're now 13 days into a unilateral disarmament on the part of our Nation.

The ability to obtain the right information at the right time is of critical importance in our struggle against radical terrorists who hide among civilian populations and quietly plot deadly attacks. The Protect America Act moved our intelligence capabilities in the right direction. The Senate understood that in a bipartisan way. The American people understand that. We hope and pray that the Speaker and the Democrat leadership will come to their senses and allow a vote on the Protect America Act.

OFFICERS SAY IRAQ WAR HAS STRETCHED MILITARY "DANGEROUSLY THIN"

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 5 years after the start of the war in Iraq, a new authoritative poll shows the growing concern of U.S. military officers about the impact of the war in Iraq on our Nation's security. The poll is based on the opinions of 3,400 present and former military officers. Eighty-eight percent of these officers believe that the demands of the Iraq war have "stretched the U.S. military dangerously thin." Eighty percent of the military officers believe it is unreasonable to expect that the U.S. could respond to any new military threat in another part of the world. And nearly three-quarters of the officers believe civilian leaders set "unreasonable goals for the military in post-Saddam Iraq."

Clearly, the Bush administration is not listening to its own military officers. In fact, before the start of the Iraq war, not one single military officer believed that Iraq had anything to do with the war on terrorism. And yet President Bush is determined to continue this war irregardless of his military's own concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq has undermined our Nation's military strength and our readiness and, therefore, our national security.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN D. GRASSBAUGH POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2478) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service

located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2478

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN JONATHAN D. GRASSBAUGH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 2478 which names a postal facility in the town of East Hampstead, New Hampshire, after Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh.

S. 2478, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator JOHN SUNUNU on December 13, 2007, and passed by the Chamber under unanimous consent on December 19, 2007, has been considered and reported out of the Oversight Committee by voice vote as of January 29, 2008.

Like many of the postal naming measures in which this body has previously considered and passed over the past couple of years, S. 2478 seeks to honor the service and dedication of a heroic American serviceman, the Honorable Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh, by naming after him the post office in his hometown of East Hampstead, New Hampshire.

Born and raised in the fine city of East Hampstead, New Hampshire, Captain Grassbaugh is held in high esteem by friends and family alike who recall him as an exceptional student and active community volunteer. After graduating from high school with honors, Captain Grassbaugh attended Johns

Hopkins University where he graduated in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. During his collegiate pursuits at Johns Hopkins, Captain Grassbaugh also served as the battalion commander for the school's ROTC program.

After completing U.S. Army Ranger School in April 2004, Captain Grassbaugh was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sadly, however, on April 7, 2007, while serving in Iraq, Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh was tragically killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit in Zaganiyah, Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, given Captain Grassbaugh's commitment to his community, his vocation and, of course, his country, I think it only fitting that we pass the underlying measure to designate the post office on Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office. Described by his family as "the epitome of an officer and a gentleman," Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh was a truly remarkable young man.

Born into a military family, Captain Grassbaugh moved to New Hampshire at the age of 3. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy, he attended Johns Hopkins University where he earned his degree in computer science. During his time at Hopkins, Jonathan rose quickly through the ranks of his Army ROTC class, selected as the cadet battalion commander his senior year. Jonathan's dedication and sense of honor served as a driving force behind the JHU Ranger Challenge team winning brigade competitions 2 years in a row and the battalion being rated third in the nation among 270 ROTC units.

In the words of one of his professors, "In my 9 years of teaching ROTC, Jonathan Grassbaugh was by far one of the most energetic and conscientious young men that I have ever had the honor to teach."

In 2005 during his first tour in Iraq, Captain Grassbaugh served as aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Michael Ferriter, a top adviser to the U.S. military commander in Iraq. Speaking at Jonathan's funeral, Ferriter commented on the young man he grew to know so well: "He made me a better leader and a better man. He was simply as good as it gets. He was the best; a warrior, friend, comrade, loving husband, and caring son."

In June of 2006, Jonathan married his college sweetheart, Jenna, just a few